

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5, 774,304 to Crane et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to a head slider. Claim 1 defines the slider body defining the medium-opposed surface. The medium-opposed surface is semisected into first and second areas by a centerline extending in a longitudinal direction of the slider body. Claim 1 also defines that the second area is designed to generate a positive pressure larger than a positive pressure generated at the first area when a load acting on the slider body in a direction toward a recording medium decreases. The head slider defined in Claim 1 is configured to take advantage of the imbalance of the lift or positive pressure on the slider body. This imbalance can be utilized to intentionally induce increases in the roll angle and the pitch angle of the slider body. The increase in the roll and pitch angles causes disappearance of the lift as well as the negative pressure generated at the medium-opposed surface of the slider body. The head slider in this manner can reliably be distanced from the moving surface of the recording medium solely with the assistance of the airflow acting on the medium-opposed surface of the slider body.

In the rejection of Claim 1, the Examiner focuses on Figure 9 of Crane et al. Figure 9 shows the slider 300 having rails 310, 312. A width of the rail 310 is different from that of the rail 312. The raised bearing surfaces 316 and 340 are formed on the rails 310 and 312 respectively. The configuration on a bottom surface of the slider 300 is asymmetrical.

However, the Crane et al. reference is silent about a positive pressure generated on the bottom surface of the slider 300 during a decrease of a load acting on the slider 300 in a direction toward a recording medium. The slider 300 might fly with an attitude at predetermined roll and pitch angles. Under the situation, the load acting on the slider 300 should be kept constant. Consequently, the Crane et al. reference fails to disclose or even suggest the subject matter of Claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection of Claim 1 is respectfully requested.

With regard to Claim 2, this claim is directed to a recording medium drive that includes a head slider. Claim 2 defines the head slider using the same language found in Claim 1. The load acting on the head slider may decrease when the load bar is received on the ramp member before the stoppage of the recording medium. When the load bar climbs up the slope, the load or urging force applied to the head slider from the load bar decreases. A further upward movement of the load bar along the slope causes the head slider to be substantially released from the urging force from the head suspension. At this movement, the head slider of this type is allowed to enjoy the imbalance of the lift or positive pressure on the slider body. This imbalance can be utilized to intentionally induce increases in the roll angle and the pitch angle of the slider body. The increase in the roll and pitch angles causes the disappearance of the lift as well as the negative pressure generated at the medium-opposed surface of the slider body. The head slider in this manner can reliably be distanced from the moving surface of the recording medium, solely with the assistance of the airflow acting on the medium-opposed surface of the slider body, without the assistance of a so-called limiter.

The head slider is allowed to reliably become distanced from the moving surface of the recording medium when the load bar has reached a predetermined elevation above the moving surface of the recording medium.

In the rejection of Claim 2, the Examiner refers to Crane et al. As described above, the Crane et al. reference is silent about a positive pressure generated on the bottom surface of the slider 300 during a decrease of a load acting on the slider 300 in a direction toward a recording medium. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 2 for at least the same reasons discussed above when traversing the rejection of Claim 1. Furthermore, the Crane et al. reference also fails to disclose the ramp member and the load bar, which are also recited in Claim 2. Accordingly for these reasons also, Applicants request the withdrawal of this rejection of Claim 2.

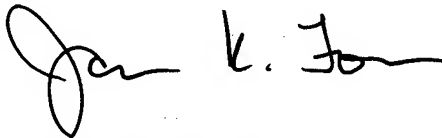
Finally, Applicants have added new dependent Claims 9-12. Applicants respectfully submit that new dependent Claims 9-12 are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with regard to associated independent Claims 1 and 2

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference

would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By 
James K. Folker
Registration No. 37,538

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Suite 2500
300 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 360-0080

Customer No. 24978
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